



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

77
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,662	08/05/2003	Berthold Kessler	1739-0175P	5312
2292	7590	10/15/2004	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			STAFIRA, MICHAEL PATRICK	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2877

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,662	KESSLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael P. Stafira	2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/128,484.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/12/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/128,484, filed on April 24, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurosawa et al. ('120).

Claim 1

Kurosawa et al. ('120) discloses a method of selection of a given field of observation in the region of the interaction zone between laser beam (Fig. 9, Ref. 1) and work piece (Fig. 9, Ref. W), detection of radiation (Fig. 9, Ref. 7) coming from the selected field of observation with a radiation-sensitive receiver which delivers an electrical signal corresponding to the detected radiation (Col. 11, lines 10-28), filtering of the electrical signal (Fig. 10, Ref. 25) in order to be able to detect rapid and/or short, fault-related changes in intensity of the detected radiation (Col. 12, lines 3-65), and evaluation of the filtered electrical signal for the detection of faults during

the laser machining operation (Col. 14, lines 20-28).

FIG. 9

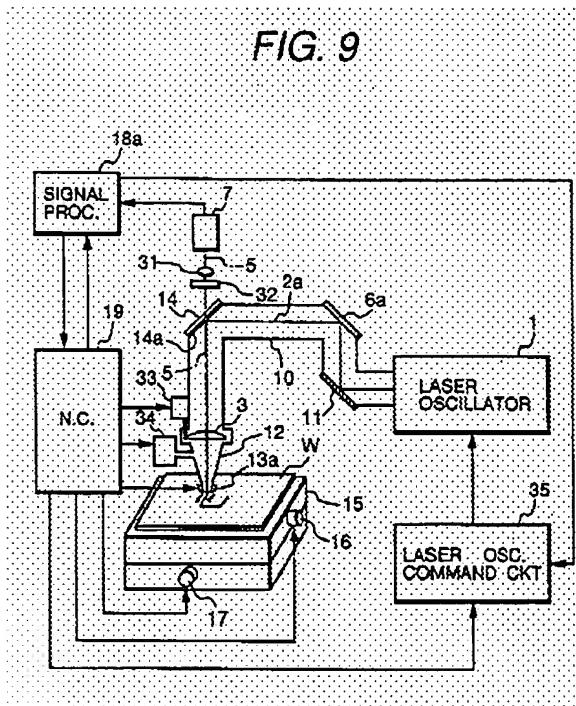
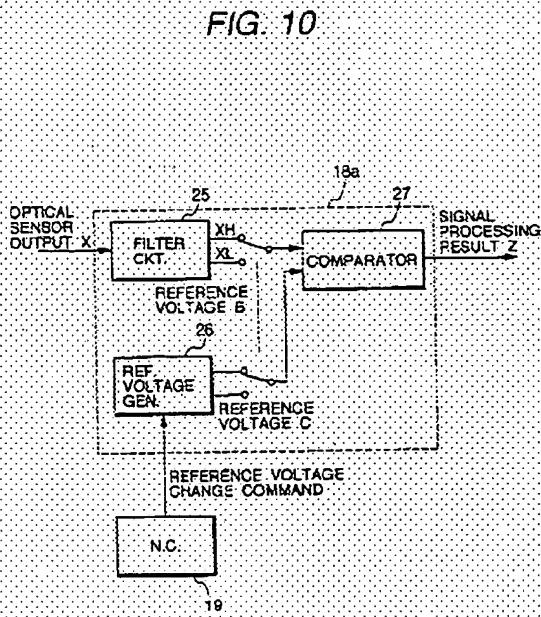


FIG. 10



Claim 3

Kurosawa et al. ('120) further discloses the spectral sensitivity of the radiation-sensitive receiver is fixed according to the selected field of observation (Col. 11, lines 22-28).

Claim 4

The reference of Kurosawa et al. ('120) further discloses the electrical signal is subjected to high-pass filtering (Col. 12, lines 3-7).

Claim 5

Kurosawa et al. ('120) discloses the filtered electrical signal is compared with stored values of a perfect machining operation in order to detect smaller faults (Col. 13, lines 30-36; Col. 14, lines 20-28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

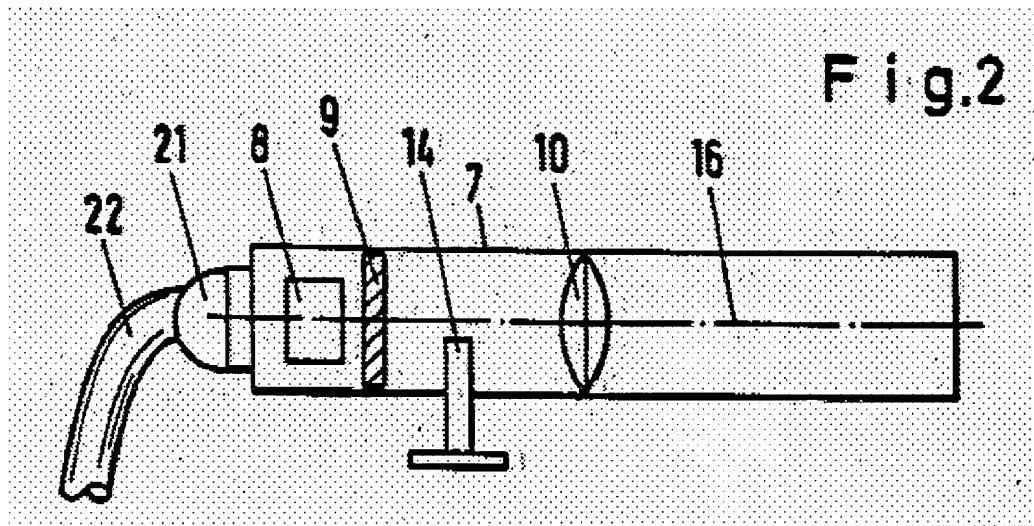
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al. ('120) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Jurca ('312).

Claim 2

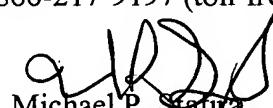
Kurosawa et al. ('120) substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it does not show a method of using stop arranged in front of the radiation-sensitive receiver. Jurca ('312) shows that it is known to provide a stop (Fig. 2, Ref. 14) arranged in front of a radiation-sensitive receiver (Fig. 2, Ref. 8) for a laser welding apparatus. It would have been obvious to combine the device of Kurosawa et al. ('120) with the stop of Jurca ('312) for the purpose of providing increase in the efficiency of laser material processing when welding and cutting with laser, therefore preventing the waste of material and time necessary for quality tests after production.



Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 571-272-2430. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Toatley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael P. Stafira
Primary Examiner

Application/Control Number: 10/633,662
Art Unit: 2877

Page 6

Art Unit 2877

October 13, 2004